

From: Mary_Paul_Stewart@berlex.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/26/01 7:35pm
Subject: I object to the proposed terms

To Whom it concerns,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for consumers to email opinions regarding the Department of Justice's proposed settlement with Microsoft.

While I think the most of the proposed settlement is rather anti-climatic, I am extremely disturbed by one particular aspect of the proposed terms:

WASHINGTON -- Microsoft said on Tuesday it had reached a deal to settle a raft of private antitrust cases against the company, which sources said would cost the software firm more than a billion dollars.

The agreement with class action attorneys would require the company, which agreed to settle its separate 3-year-old case with the Justice Department earlier this month, to provide free software and computers to more than 14,000 of the poorest U.S. schools over five years, sources close to the case said.

This is, quite simply, shocking! How is Microsoft's monopoly position weakened if they are "forced" to distribute more product, thus enlarging a monopoly position?! I suppose Microsoft will also be permitted to write this off as a "donation" from their taxes? This is hardly a punishment for an unbelievably cash-rich company that has been labeled by our courts to be a monopoly!

The correct penalty is for Microsoft to purchase a billion dollars in software, operating systems and hardware FROM THEIR COMPETITORS to place in these poorest schools! The competitors are the ones who have been hurt by the illegal practices of Microsoft and therefore deserve to receive some benefit! This trial was about Microsoft's illegal competitive practices against the Netscape browser, not to mention the many examples of Microsoft's unfair practices that were demonstrated during the trial. Netscape was nearly destroyed by Microsoft, having lost at least 60% of their browser share over the past 3 years. For this reason, the Department of Justice must not allow Microsoft to place the Internet Explorer browser in schools. And since Microsoft has "commingled" the Internet Explorer browser code into the coding of the many flavors of Windows operating systems (XP, ME, 98, etc.) it is clearly inappropriate to permit any Windows operating system to be "donated."

Please, don't let Microsoft walk away once again from their blatant

unlawful behavior with another slap on the wrist. I just know they are sitting in their ivory towers laughing right now.

Sincerely yours,
Mary L. Paul Stewart